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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director for Research and Reports DATE: 3 January 1952

FROM : Acting Chief, Basic Intelligence Division, ORR

SUBJECT: Production of Supplement V, NIS 26 (USSR).

1. This memorandum pertains to the question of whether the Bureau of Mines should proceed with the production of Supplement V (Petroleum) for NIS Area No. 26 (USSR) in accordance with a decision of the NIS Committee, or discontinue work on this supplement for an indefinite period as recommended by the Petroleum Subcommittee of the EIC.

2. The NIS Committee has deferred production of this supplement two times since it was first scheduled for production in June 1950. The present schedule calls for the submission of this element to D/B in May 1952, which date was set after receiving assurance from the Bureau of Mines that this deadline could and would be met. The Committee was also informed that the Bureau of Mines now had a team of six analysts that could be assigned full time to this project, and that enough material had been assembled to warrant the preparation of the USSR Petroleum Supplement. The Bureau of Mines also indicated a desire to proceed immediately with the preparation of this study.

3. The Bureau of Mines is charged by Presidential order with the responsibility for producing the NIS petroleum elements. Further, CIA furnished fiscal support to the Bureau of Mines in the sum of [redacted] in FY 1951 for the production of certain NIS petroleum elements which included Supplement V for NIS 26. The close of FY 1951 found the Bureau of Mines in default on the production of the USSR Petroleum Supplement. Fiscal support in the sum of [redacted] was provided for production of NIS petroleum elements in FY 1952 and Supplement V, NIS 26, was rescheduled for submission to D/B in January 1952. When it was found that the Bureau of Mines would not be able to meet the January 1952 deadline, the May 1952 date for submission of this supplement to D/B was set for reasons mentioned above. It was the consensus of the NIS Committee that the Bureau of Mines should be required to fulfill the production commitments for which it had received fiscal support from CIA.

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4. The adequacy of the supplement being prepared by the Bureau of Mines cannot, of course, be determined until a preliminary draft is ready for review. Provision has been made for such review, and further research will be required if it is found necessary.

5. The NIS Committee had no reason to question the statement of the Bureau of Mines representative that his office was now in a position to produce Supplement V, NIS 26, in conformity with the NIS Outline Guide. If the Petroleum Subcommittee of the EIC has reason to question

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that statement, or has reason to believe that the source materials to be used by the Bureau of Mines are misleading, inaccurate, or otherwise open to question, the NIS Committee would like very much to be informed of the basis for conclusions reached by the Petroleum Subcommittee. All facts bearing upon the matter could then be considered in determining whether or not a further delay is producing this supplement is warranted. Any change in the present schedule will, of course, require action by the NIS Committee, which is the interagency committee charged by the IAC with the responsibility for establishing NIS Production and Maintenance Schedules in accordance with JCS priorities and agency capabilities.

6. It is my opinion that the divergent views of the two committees can best be reconciled by discussion of the points at issue. The two committees appear to have overlapping responsibilities in the basic intelligence field, and I think it would be in the best interests of both programs if their efforts were coordinated. In furtherance of this idea, it is recommended that representatives of both committees meet and explore the possibilities of working out ways and means of effecting this coordination. I will be glad to make arrangements with the Chairman of the Petroleum Subcommittee for such a meeting if this course of action meets with your approval.



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